

MONEYS PAID JAMES MONROE, LATE PRESIDENT.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING,

In pursuance of a resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 27th ultimo,

STATEMENTS SHOWING THE AMOUNT OF

Moneys paid to the late President of the United States,

AS COMPENSATION FOR

HIS SERVICES IN VARIOUS OTHER OFFICES;

ALSO,

Of his Claims upon the Government,

WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN ALLOWED.

JANUARY 23, 1826.

Read, and referred to a select committee.

WASHINGTON:

PRINTED BY GALES & SEATON.

1826.

To the House of Representatives of the United States.

WASHINGTON, 23d Jan. 1826.

In compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 27th of December last, requesting a statement of moneys paid out of the public Treasury, to the late President of the United States, as compensation for his services in various other offices, which he has filled under the Government of the United States, and on other accounts; and, also, of claims for allowances made by him upon the Government, which have been disallowed, I transmit herewith a report from the Secretary of the Treasury, with documents containing the information desired by the resolution.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

January 20, 1826.

The Secretary of the Treasury to whom was referred the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 27th of last month, requesting the President of the United States to lay before that House "a statement of the amount of moneys paid out of the public Treasury, at any time previous to the 4th day of March, 1825, to James Monroe, late President of the United States, as compensation allowed to him for his services in the various offices which he has filled under the Government of the United States, except that of President of the United States, and all allowances and emoluments attending the said services; designating the particular sums paid, as salary or otherwise, for such services, allowances, and emoluments; and the times when such sums were paid respectively; and an account of all claims of the said James Monroe, for compensation, allowances, disbursements, or emoluments for services, which have been presented at any of the departments of the Government, or to the accounting officers of the Treasury Department, which have been disallowed, and the times when any such claims, respectively, have been presented, and the grounds on which claims were disallowed," has the honor to transmit herewith to the President, a letter from the Register of the Treasury, dated the 17th instant, with two documents enclosed in it marked A and B, together with a letter from the Comptroller of the Treasury, dated the 14th instant, with the correspondence numbered from 1 to 5, enclosed in it; which contain all the information afforded by the files of this department upon the subject of the resolution.

RICHARD RUSH.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Register's Office, January 17th, 1826.

SIR: Agreeably to your instructions predicated on the Resolution of the House of Representatives of the United States of the 27th December last, in relation to the whole amount paid out of the public Treasury, or in anywise received by James Monroe, other than as President of the United States, I have the honor of transmitting a statement, (A.) certifying that the whole amount paid him, as called for by said resolution, is one hundred fifty-eight thousand two hundred and thirty-four dollars eighty-two cents, arranged under the following heads:

Salary as Minister Plenipotentiary abroad,	\$66,887 66
Outfits and returning home, - - -	31 500 00
Salary of the Secretaries of Legation, and returning	5,750 26

Expenses of a special mission to Spain,	-	11,744	83
The family of General Lafayette,	-	5,509	57
Contingent expenses in England,	-	5,589	00
“ “ in France,	-	546	66
Miscellaneous,	-	1,340	19
Salary as Secretary of State,	27,541	65	} 29,416 65
of War,	1,875	00	

As above \$158,234 82

The said resolution requires an account of all claims of the said James Monroe, for compensation, allowances, disbursements, or emoluments, for services which have been presented at any of the departments of the Government, or to the accounting officers of the Treasury Department which have been disallowed, and the times when any such claims respectively have been presented, and the grounds on which the claims were disallowed. On this part of the resolution, a reference is respectfully made to the accompanying document marked B, being a copy of an account presented and settled at the Treasury in 1810. In this document there is one item or claim, marked No. 8, which was suspended under the authority of the Secretary of State, in his letter to the Auditor of the Treasury, dated May 5th, 1810, and now recognized by a certificate from that department as a genuine letter, recourse having been had thereto, to supply the loss by the conflagration of all the vouchers in 1814, which accompanied Mr. Monroe's accounts of foreign missions prior to, and during the year 1810, being the only claim disallowed, as appears from an examination of the Treasury records.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

With great respect,

Your obedient servant.

JOSEPH NOURSE, *Register.*

Hon. RICHARD RUSH,
Secretary of the Treasury.

A.

STATEMENT of the amount of Moneys paid out of the Public Treasury, at any time previous to the 4th day of March, 1825, to James Monroe, late President of the United States.

Statement of the amount of moneys paid out of the Public Treasury at any time previous to the 4th day of March, 1825, to James Monroe, late President of the United States, as compensation allowed to him for his services in the various offices which he has filled under the Government of the United States, except that of President of the United States, and all allowances and emoluments attending the said services, designating the particular sums

paid as salary or otherwise, for such services, allowances, and emoluments, and the time when such sums were paid respectively.

For amount of the sums furnished to James Monroe, late

Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States to the French Republic, by Edmund Randolph, formerly Secretary of State, - - - \$10,505 00

Amount do. do. by Messrs. Willinks and others, from the 28th Sept. 1794, to 7th Feb. 1797, 87,046 guilders 15 stivers and 8 pennings, at 40 cents, equal to - - - 34,818 71

Amount advanced to him as late Minister to France, Great Britain, and Spain, from the Treasury, viz:

January 19th, 1803, 9,000 00

July 29th, 1805, 1,666 14

10,666 14

Amount of payments made by W. & J.

Willink & Co. for his account while at Paris, from 11th of May to 14th July, 1803, 18,823 guilders 6 stivers, at 40 cents, per report No. 18,274, 7,529 32

Amount of sundry payments made to him, and his orders, by Baring, Brothers & Co. from 30th Sept. 1803, to 16th Oct. 1806, £10,450 19 4 sterling, per report No. 20,867, - - - 46,448 74

Do. from 16th April, to 27th Oct. 1807, £4,241 6 3 sterling, per report No.

21,570, - - - 18,850 26

72,828 32

The following sums paid from the Treasury to James Monroe, as Secretary of State and War, viz :

1st July, 1811, 1,250 00

3d Oct. do. 1,250 00

3d January, 1812, 1,250 00

2d April, do. 1,250 00

3d July, do. 1,250 00

7th October, do. 1,250 00

4th January, 1813, 1,250 00

1st April, do. 1,250 00

3d July, do. 1,250 00

5th October, do. 1,250 00

1st January, 1814, 1,250 00

1st April, do. 1,250 00

1st July, do. 1,250 00

1st October, do. 1,250 00

6th January, 1815, 1,125 00

4th April, 1815, 750 00

Do. do. 430 55

[Doc. No. 53.]

7th July, do.	1,250 00
10th Oct. do.	1,250 00
2d January, 1816,	1,250 00
18th April, do.	1,250 00
2d July. do.	1,250 00
3d October. do.	1,250 00
2d January, 1817,	1,250 00
3d April, do.	861 10

 29,416 65

 \$158,234 82

Supra Cr.

By salary as Minister to the Republic of France, from 30th May. 1794. to 6th Dec. 1796, 2 years 6 months and 6 days, at \$9,000, - - -

22,647 94

Outfit, - - - - 9,000 00

Allowance for return home - - - 2,250 00

Salary as Minister employed in France, England. and Spain, from 12th Jan. 1803, to 15th Nov. 1807, 4 years, 10 months and 4 days, at \$9,000 per annum, - - -

43,598 63

Outfit as Minister to France, - - - 9,000 00

Outfit as Minister to England, - - - 9,000 00

Allowance for returning home, - - - 2,250 00

Amount short allowed as Minister to the French Republic, his salary having been computed to the 6th Dec. 1796, the day he received his letter of recall, whereas, according to the rules established by the Department of State, and which have governed in similar cases, it should have extended to the 1st of Jan. 1797, the day he had his audience of leave, 26 days, at \$9,000 per annum, - - -

641 09

James Monroe, Secretary of State, from 1st of April, 1811, to 30th Sept. 1814. 3 years 6 months, at \$5000 per annum, - - -

17,500 00

Do. as Secretary of War, from 1st Oct. 1814, to 28th Feb. 1815, 5 months, at \$4,500 per annum, - - -

1,875 00

Do. as Secretary of State, from 1st March, 1815, to 3d March. 1817, 2 years and 3 days, at \$5000 per annum, 10,041 65

 \$127,804 51

Salary of his Secretary for same period, at \$1,350 per annum, - - -	3,397 19	
Allowance to do. for returning home, - - -	337 50	
	<hr/>	3,734 69
Newspapers sent to the Department of State from August, 1794, to Aug. 1796, 70 Livres		
Postage of letters same period, 340		
Flag presented to the National Convention, 200		
	—610 at $18\frac{15}{100}$	110 71
Payment to Jno. H. Purviance for his expenses from Paris to London, and back, on public business, -	233 33	
Payment to Henry Hitchborn for an express from Lisbon to Madrid, £ 6 15, -	30 00	
	<hr/>	374 04
This sum paid to Madame Lafayette and others of the family of Gen. Lafayette, at sundry times, -	4,856 17	
This sum paid Fulwar Skipwith for aid rendered to American seamen, -	25 23	
This sum received from John Dawson, his agent, in part of the balance due from him, - - -	1,435 64	
This sum, being two payments made to Mr. Mauborg, for the use of the family of Gen. Lafayette, in addition to the sums admitted in a former account, 3,600 livres, at $18\frac{15}{100}$, - - -	653 40	
This sum received by John Dawson, for the balance of his account, - - -	346 60	
	<hr/>	7,317 04

Expenses incurred in a special mission to Spain, from 8th Oct. 1804, to 17th July, 1805, including compensation to a Secretary,	10,598 28
Extraordinary expenses at Madrid and at Paris, going and returning, not included in the preceding item.	- 1,146 55
Sundry contingent expenses in the mission to France,	546 66
Do. do. to England,	5,539 00
	<hr/> 17,830 49

This sum paid Benjamin the Jew, on the 22d May, 1807, for the use of the Tunisian Minister at London, on his return from the U. States, and which is included in the amount charged to said James Monroe, - - 888 88

This sum accounted for in a settlement of a former account with Timothy Pickering, more than he had received from the bankers at Amsterdam, as will appear on reference to the statement of said bankers' accounts, 535 guilders, equal to - - - 214 00

	<hr/> 30,359 14
Balance due by James Monroe, which was repaid into the Treasury on the 18th December, 1816,	71 57
	<hr/> <hr/> \$158,234 82

Recapitulation.

By salary as Minister Plenipotentiary abroad,	- - - 66,887 66
Outfits and returning home	- - - 31,500 00
Salary of the Secretaries of Legation, and returning,	- - - 5,750 26
Expenses of a special mission to Spain.	- - - 11,744 83
The family of Gen. Lafayette,	- - - 5,509 57
Contingent expenses in England,	- - - 5,539 00
Do. do. in France,	- - - 546 66
Miscellaneous,	- - - 1,340 19
Salary as Secretary of State and War,	29,416 65
	<hr/> \$158,234 82

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

REGISTER'S OFFICE, 17th January, 1826.

JOSEPH NOURSE.

(B.)

STATEMENT of the Account of James Monroe, as Minister to France, England, and Spain.

The UNITED STATES to JAMES MONROE,	Dr.
1. To outfit as Minister to France, - - -	\$9,000 00
2. To contingent expenses of that mission, viz: for copying letters, papers, &c. having had no Secretary of Legation there; for newspapers, stationery, postage of letters, including a payment to Mr. Deneux, by me, of 251 livres, as bearer of a copy of the treaties to the United States, and for usual presents, 2,952, at 108 s. - - -	546 66
3. To outfit as Minister to England, - - -	9,000 00
4. To contingent expenses in England, being for presentation presents, Christmas boxes, postage, printing, passports, stationery and periodical publications, estimated at - - -	5,539 00
5. Salary as Minister, while employed in France, England, and Spain, from January 12th, 1803, to 15th November, 1807, four years, ten months, and four days, at \$9,000 per annum, - - -	43,598 63
6. Expenses incurred in a special mission to Spain, beginning 8th October, 1804, and ending on the 17th July, 1805, including salary to Secretary, with allowance for his coming from the United States to London and following me to Madrid, and returning to the United States, - - -	10,598 28
7. Extraordinary expenses of the mission to Spain, not included in the preceding item, viz:	
At Paris, on my way to Madrid, 4,159 livres,	
At do. on my return, 650	
4,809	
Equal to \$890 55	
At Madrid (Aranjuez) and on the road, 256 00	
	1,146 55
8 Extraordinary expenses attending my detention in England, on my return from Spain, after receiving the permission of Government to return to the United States, by the seizure of our vessels, and the negotiations which ensued, - - -	
9. To a quarter's salary for returning home, - - -	2,250 00
10. To amount paid to Benjamin, the Jew, on account of the Tunisian Ambassador, £200 sterling, - - -	888 88

11. To amount paid Charles Brenton, for expenses of himself and others, attending the trial of Captain Whitby, - - - - - 400 00

\$ 82.963 00

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

May 5, 1810.

SIR: The President directs that the several charges contained in the foregoing account of Mr. Monroe, as Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States at Paris, London, and Madrid, between the 12th January, 1803. and 15th November, 1807, be admitted to his credit, except the eighth charge, which is to remain suspended for further consideration.

With great respect, I have the honor to be,
Sir, your obedient servant,

R. SMITH.

The AUDITOR of the Treasury.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

January 21, 1826.

The foregoing is a true copy.

DANIEL BRENT, *Chief Clerk.*

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Comptroller's Office, January 14th, 1826.

SIR: On the subject of the enclosed copy of the resolution of the House of Representatives of the United States, passed the 27th ultimo, which you referred to me, I have the honor to state that this Department is not in possession of any information in relation to any other part of it than that called for in the concluding passage thereof, which is in the following words:

“And on account of *all claims* of the said James Monroe, for *compensation*; allowances, disbursements, or emoluments, for services, which have been presented at any of the Departments of the Government, or to the Accounting officers of the Treasury Department, which have been disallowed; and the times when any such claims, respectively, have been presented, and the grounds on which the claims were disallowed.”

On the several points embraced by this part of the resolution, all the information of this Department is contained in the accompanying

copies of the correspondence between him and this Department, numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

With great respect,

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

JOS. ANDERSON,

Comptroller.

Hon. RICHARD RUSH,

Secretary of the Treasury.

No. 1.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Comptroller's Office, 24th February, 1810.

SIR: You are charged, on the books of the Treasury, with \$81,555 63, advanced and paid on account of salary and contingent expenses connected with your mission to Europe. as Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States at the Courts of Great Britain, France, and Spain.

I have to request that you will be good enough to transmit to this Department your accounts of the expenditure and application of that sum. This may be done through the Department of State, or directly to the Auditor of the Treasury, which ever you may deem most proper.

I have the honor to be,

With great respect and esteem,

&c. &c.

G. DUVAL,

Comptroller.

JAMES MONROE, Esq. &c.

Albemarle, Virginia.

No. 2.

ALBEMARLE, *March, 14, 1810.*

SIR: I have lately received your letter of February 24th, informing me that I stand charged, on the books of the Treasury, with the sum of \$81,555 63, on account of salary and contingent expenses, connected with my mission to Europe as Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States, at the Courts of Great Britain, France, and Spain, and requesting that I would transmit to your Department my account of the expenditure and application of that sum.

Having seen, just before the receipt of your letter, an extract from a Boston paper, containing a statement, apparently sanctioned by you,

in which that sum was charged to me, on account of Foreign Inter-course only, I should have set out immediately for Washington, had I not been prevented by severe indisposition. I desired, however, Mr. Brent, of the Senate, to be so good as to obtain for me a copy of your account, with such credits as it was known that I had a just claim to, and a specification of those items in which information and vouchers are wanting, that I might be prepared for an adjustment with you. As soon as I receive that statement, I shall have the honor to address you on the subject.

I am, Sir, with great consideration,
Your very obedient servant,
JAMES MONROE.

GABRIEL DUVAL, Esq.
Comptroller of the Treasury.

No. 3.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Comptroller's Office, March 22d, 1810.

SIR: Your letter of the 14th was duly received.

The Comptroller of the Treasury is directed by law to lay before Congress annually, in the first week of their session, a statement of the unsettled accounts and balances in the Treasury, War, and Navy Departments. The report made at an early period of the present session contained, among others, the amount standing to your debit on the books of the Treasury. To obviate improper inferences, my report contained the following remark:

“Some of the balances standing on the books of the Treasury, although nominally large, will, without doubt, be greatly lessened, if not wholly extinguished, when a settlement shall take place; particularly those against Foreign Ministers and Agents, the advances having been made on account of salary and other official expenditures.”

You will perceive, on reference to the enclosed statement, how the amount against you is constituted: And the subjoined extracts of letters from the Department of State will enable you to state your account. We make no statement here: that is always left to the party. Your attendance at the Seat of Government may not be necessary, unless you shall deem it requisite, in order to obtain allowances which are not authorized by the tenor of the extracts before mentioned, which will govern the accounting officers in adjusting the account.

I have the honor to be,
With great respect,

Your most obedient servant,
G. DUVAL, *Compt'r.*

The Hon. JAMES MONROE,
Late Minister Plenipotentiary, &c.
Albemarle County, Va.

*Extract of a Letter from the Secretary of State to James Monroe, Esq.
dated*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

March 2d, 1803.

"You will, herewith, receive two commissions, with the correspondent instructions, in which you are associated, as Minister Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary, to the French Republic and to his Catholic Majesty; together with the respective letters of credence to those Governments.

"The allowance for this service will be, a salary at the rate of nine thousand dollars a year. The general rule, which dates the commencement of the salary at the time of leaving home, being inapplicable to your case, inasmuch as your appointment was notified and accepted at this place, your salary will commence on the —* day of January, on which it was understood you accepted the appointment, and will cease with the termination of the business of your mission; a quarter's salary being, however, added, as an allowance for the expenses of your return home.

"The distinction between the circumstances of an extraordinary and a temporary mission, and those of a mission requiring a fixed establishment, is the ground on which no outfit is allowed. But you will be allowed your expenses in repairing to Paris, including those of a journey from your home to this place; and your expenses in travelling between the places where you are, or may be required to attend. In adopting this mode of allowance, in lieu of the outfit, the President, presuming your expenses will not exceed a year's salary, has thought proper to make that the limit. In addition to the above, you will have a right to charge for postages and couriers, should the latter prove necessary.

Should you find it necessary to appoint a private Secretary, on your arrival in Europe, you are authorized to do so, allowing him for his services at the rate of \$ 1,350 per annum. If he should live in your family, the expenses of his maintenance and travelling will be included in your accounts; but he cannot be allowed any thing separately for expenses; and his salary will cease when the three months allowed for your return commence. As he will have been found in France or Spain, it will not be unjust to leave him there, without an extra allowance for returning."

* This blank is supposed to refer to the date of the Commission, which was the 12th January, 1803.

*James Monroe, late Minister of the United States
to France and Great Britain, &c. Dr.*

	To Treasury warrants.	
	For No. 3610, dated 19th January, 1803	9,000 00
	For No. 6079, 29th July, 1805	1,666 14
1807. Dec. 31.	To Willinks and others, United States' bankers, for payments made for his account while at Paris, from 11th May to 14th July, 1803, 18.823 6f. equal at 40 cents, to	7,529 32
1808. Nov. 29.	To Baring, Brothers, & Company, United States' Bankers, for sundry payments made to him and on his orders, from 30th September, 1803, to 16th October, 1806, inclusive, £10,450 19 4 sterling, equal to	46,448 74
1809. June 13.	To Baring, Brothers, & Co. United States' Bankers, for amount of payments to him, from 16th April to 27th October, 1807, £4,241 6 3 sterling, equal to	18,850 26
	To ditto ditto for amount of Charles Brenton's draft, paid by your order, on 28th April, 1807, £90 sterling, equal to	400 00
		<hr/>
		\$83,894 46
	<i>Supra Cr.</i>	
1808. Nov. 29.	By Baring, Brothers, & Company, United States' Bankers, for this sum, paid them on the 24th February, 1804, £526 4 9 sterling, equal to	2,338 83
		<hr/>
	Dollars	81,555 63

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Register's Office, 1st January, 1810.

JOSEPH NOURSE, *Register*

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No. 4.

WASHINGTON, November 1, 1816.

SIR: It will appear, by reference to the documents in the Department of the Treasury, that I have a claim on the Government for a considerable sum of money, founded on my detention in England, after my return from Spain, when I had the permission of the President, to return home, and had prepared for it, but was prevented by

unexpected and extraordinary events, which followed each other, at short intervals, and imposed on me duties of the highest importance, for the term of two years and four months. My expenses, during that period, were, in my opinion, at least fifty per cent. more than they would have been, had I contemplated remaining there the whole term, and provided for it. In the article of house rent, the expenditure was double, as it was in the price of wine and groceries, which are received by foreign ministers, duty free, when imported for their own use, and in the hire of servants, horses, and the general disbursement, the difference was considerable. Among the causes which contributed much to increase my expense, is particularly to be noticed the special mission, in which I was associated and acted jointly with Mr. Pinkney. This claim was reserved for consideration by my predecessor, who admitted its equity, but did not settle it, in which state it was when I came into the Department, and has since remained. It has long been usual for the Auditor of public accounts to refer claims arising under the Department, not strictly within the letter of the law, to the decision of the Secretary of State. A decision on this claim could not be made, after I came into the Department, as it would have been in my own case. Hence, I have remained without the money unquestionably due to me, although I owed it, and more, for my expenses incurred abroad, on which I have paid interest. It has been the more mortifying, because, on a trifling balance with which I stand charged, without taking this claim into the estimate, I have been reported annually in the list of public debtors.

Since I have been in the Department of State, the claims of other ministers have been submitted to me, on which, under the sanction of the President, I have been compelled to decide. Had I not decided, great injury might have been the consequence. Public affairs of the highest importance might, and probably would, have been suspended, if, in some instances, they had not failed. Bound to decide, I have done it, according to my judgment, by an impartial, but liberal construction of the law, with a view to the public welfare. These decisions have applied, in some instances, to claims analogous to my own. I have, also, been called on by the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, to report my opinion of the competency of the salary allowed to our ministers at foreign courts, which I have stated to be altogether inadequate. These are strong reasons why my claim has not hitherto been settled. They operate with equal force why it should not be settled while I remain in the administration.

I have, therefore, decided to pay to the Government the sum claimed of me, for the purpose of taking my name from the list of public debtors, leaving the claim heretofore reserved for consideration, still unsettled. That claim I still reserve, but will never bring it forward while I have any connection with the administration.

I presume, however, that there can be no objection to the correction of an error in the settlement of my account, in my first mission to France, which was mentioned in a letter to my predecessor, bearing

date the 17th day of December, 1810, of which I sent you a copy. The error consists in this: that my compensation was suspended on the day I received my letter of recal, which was on the 6th December, 1796, and not on the day on which I obtained my audience of leave of the French Directory, which was on the 1st January following. As I was instructed to take leave of the French Government in a friendly manner, and requested an audience, for the purpose, on the day I received my letter of recal, and repeated my request afterwards, without being able to obtain the audience sooner, during which time I was necessarily detained there, it appeared to be a thing of course that my compensation should continue until I had performed the duty enjoined on me. The other item in that settlement, noticed in the letter, above mentioned, to my predecessor, that is, my claim to compensation for the time that I was detained in France, after my recal, (it being in the winter,) before I could obtain a passage for myself and family, in a ship sailing for the United States; it being of a character usually referred to the Head of the Department, will necessarily remain suspended. I mention this, merely to shew that I do not relinquish the claim.

I have the honor to be,

With great respect, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES MONROE.

Hon. JOSEPH ANDERSON,

Comptroller of the Treasury.

No. 5.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Comptroller's Office, 15th November, 1816.

SIR: I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 1st instant, upon the subject of your accounts with the United States, in which you observe, "That by reference to documents in the Treasury Department, it will appear that you have a claim on the Government for a considerable sum of money, founded on your detention in England, upon important public business, after your return from Spain, when you had the permission of the President to return home; and which detention subjected you, under the peculiar circumstances in which it placed you, to very extraordinary expenses: that this claim was reserved for consideration by your predecessor, who admitted its equity, but did not settle it.—in which state it was when you came into the Department, and has since remained."

You observe that it has been long usual for the Auditor of Public Accounts to refer claims, arising under the State Department, not strictly within the letter of the law, to the decision of the Secretary of State; but that a decision on this claim could not be made after you came into the Department, as it would have been in your own case.

Hence you have remained without the money unquestionably due to you, although you owed it, and more, for expenses incurred abroad, on which you have paid interest. You add, that it has been the more mortifying, because, on a trifling balance with which you stand charged, without taking this claim into the estimate, you have been reported annually in the list of public debtors.

You also state, that you have another claim upon the Government, in consideration of your having been detained in France, in your first mission to that Government, after you had obtained your audience of leave, agreeably to your letter of recall; which detention was occasioned by the late season, it being winter before you could obtain a passage for yourself and family, in a ship sailing for the United States. This claim you stated to your predecessor in office, who, it appears, did not act upon it; and you observe, that the reasons why your claims have not hitherto been settled, will continue to operate with equal force, why they should not be settled whilst you remain in the administration. You further observe, that you presume there can be no objection to the correction of an error in the settlement of your account, in your first mission to France, which consists in your compensation having been suspended on the day you received your letter of recall, which was on the 6th December, 1796, instead of the day on which you obtained your audience of leave of the French Directory, which you were specially directed to do, and which was on the 1st January following: not having been able, before that day, to obtain your audience of leave. And you further observe, that you will pay to the Government, the sum claimed of you, for the purpose of taking your name from the list of public debtors, leaving the claims heretofore reserved for consideration, still unsettled.

As, from the tenor of your letter, I observe, that it is intended to preserve your claim against the United States for the money which you consider due to you, notwithstanding (for the reasons which you have stated) you propose paying the balance claimed of you, I have, therefore, deemed it proper in answering the letter, to extract from it the preceding statement, as comprehending the grounds of your claims against the United States. This I have thought proper to do, in order that a full view of your claim, as stated, may be preserved upon the books of this office, as it appears at present (for the reasons which you have offered) entirely uncertain at what period a final adjustment and settlement of your account with the United States will be made.

In relation to the error which you allege to have been made in the settlement of your account, in your first mission to France, it appears, upon examining the books in the Auditor's office, in which some of the accounts of our Foreign Ministers have been stated and settled, that in the settlement of your account, (by Mr. Dawson, as your agent,) under date of July 23d, 1798, as Minister to the French Republic, a mistake had been made as to the time at which your salary as Minister ceased; it having been computed only to the 6th December, 1796, the day you received your letter of recall; whereas, according to the rules established by the State Department, and which

have governed in similar cases, as appears by the settlement of the accounts of several other Ministers in the same year, it should have been extended to the 1st day of January, 1797, the day on which you had your audience of leave, and which, by a letter from the then Secretary of State, it appears you were specially instructed to take. This error has, accordingly, been corrected, and makes a difference of twenty-six days short, which, at the rate of \$9,000 per annum, amounts to \$641 09. This sum has been passed to your credit, leaving a balance against you of \$71 37. The mistake, or error, in the settlement of your account, as before stated, appears to have resulted from the date of your letter to the Secretary of State, advising him of the time at which you had received his letter of recall; and which appears to have been taken as the time at which you had your audience of leave. This occurs to me as the only rational mode of accounting for the departure, in the settlement of your account, from the general rule which had been observed in the settlement of the accounts of our other Foreign Ministers.

I have the honor to be, with great respect,

Your most obedient servant,

JOS. ANDERSON,

Comptroller.

Hon. JAMES MONROE,

Secretary of State, Washington.